

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a hairball or increasing fecal hair excretion in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising an effective amount of a polyol fatty acid polyester.
2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises a polyol that is a monosaccharide.
3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises a polyol that is an oligosaccharide.
4. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 4 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.
5. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 5 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.
6. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is made from a polyol with at least 8 hydroxyl groups capable of being esterified.
7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 70%.
8. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 90%.
9. The method according to Claim 8 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester has a degree of esterification of at least about 95%.
10. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises fatty

acid residues having from about 2 to about 30 carbon atoms.

11. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises one or more residues of caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, myristoleic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, eleostearic, arachidic, behenic, or erucic acid.

12. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester comprises sucrose esterified with one or more residues of oleic acid.

13. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the polyol fatty acid polyester is a sucrose polyester wherein at least about 75% of the sucrose polyester, by weight, comprises octaester.

14. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of cats and rabbits.

15. The method according to Claim 1 further comprising administering a dietary fiber to the mammal.

16. The method according to Claim 15 wherein the composition comprises the dietary fiber.

17. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is a food composition.

18. The method according to Claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises a dietary fiber.

19. A veterinarian or pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of a polyol fatty acid polyester effective to increase fecal hair excretion or to treat a hairball in a mammal.

20. The composition according to Claim 19 further comprising a dietary fiber.

24. A pet food composition comprising at least about 0.05% polyol fatty acid polyester, by weight of the composition.
25. The composition according to Claim 24 which is a kibble composition.
26. The composition according to Claim 25 which is a cat food composition.
27. The composition according to Claim 24 which is a high moisture composition.
28. The composition according to Claim 27 which is a cat food composition.
29. The composition according to Claim 24 which is a semi-dry composition.
30. The composition according to Claim 29 which is a cat food composition.